

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 17. 1708.

I have been speaking to that Article of our Complaints, which respects our secret Enemies, Traytors and Betrayers of their Country, who are Tools of our Enemies, and betray us to the French ; every good Man would pray, that all such may be detected, and for my part I wish they were all detected, and us'd as they deserve ; and that on a double Account, first, that the Correspondence might be broke, and the Mischief it self prevented ; and secondly, that we might see who they are, what Party these State-Murtherers belong to, that Villains may be known, and the Innocent be no more accused.

All Men will discover their Aversion no doubt to a Traytor, and be ready to disown him when discover'd ; but let us once come to this Examination, WHICH PARTY is

it that corresponds with our Enemies ? Are they, generally speaking, High or Low, moderate Church men or Tackers ? And upon this Point the Reputation of Parties might be very justly stated, and there I leave it.

The second Article is about Mismanagement of Persons in publick Employment ; and of this a great Deal has been said, and 'tis very hard that a Man cannot steer the middle and just Course, but he shall be charged with defending the Guilty—But I'll clear myself of that Charge by this publick Declaration, as to my own Opinion.

I make no Question but there are Mismanagements in publick Employments, Army, Navy, Abroad, at Home, at Sea and on Shore, and what Age has there been without them ? All I can say to them is, I would to GOD they were all detected upon

on the same Account as before, both that the Gravity may be exposed and punished, the mischief prevented, and the Innocent be clear'd from scandal and perpetual Suspicion. — thing which only tends to make us all miserable.

Have any of our Councils been betray'd, or creature misapply'd, Stores embezeld, Fleets delay'd, Trade been unguarded, Coasts and Stationary Guards neglected, Orders not given, or when given not been obey'd? In short, has any of your publick Men not done their Duty? The Parliament is sitting, the Time of Retribution is before you, Power is in your Hands, let them be brought to Justice, detected, expos'd, and punish'd as Traytors to their Country, and as Weapons in the Hand of our Enemies, by which they beat us more than they can do, either with Sword or Gun; for there is no publick Opposition can do us half the Harm, that these Negative Assailants do us.

But if any Man will impartially weigh, what I have been upon in this Case, it is to detect those, who crying out of Mismanagement do not aim at turning out and punishing the Persons guilty, but the Party governing, and who aim not at deposing them as Men, but as *Wbigs*; and if I am not right here, I can be right no where.

I offer'd these Gentlemen a Trial of their Integrity upon the Article of their clamouring at the Ministry, whether they would be content, since they charge the whole Ministry with all our Disasters; that the Ministry being chang'd, should be chang'd into Hands unexceptionable as to any Mismanagement, only still remaining *Wbigs*. — And upon this Issue I left it, since if they would ingenuously answer this Point, all the rest would be determin'd, and it would soon appear, that the Design was not the deposing or changing our publick Men as Men, but as a Party, not as Mismanagers, but as *Wbigs*; and I think, I need not enter into this.

To put this therefore to rights, the present View of every honest Man is to continue the Administration in the Hands of her Majesty's and the Nation's Friends, the Friends

to Peace, to Moderation, to Liberty, Union, Toleration and Revolution, the Foundations of our present Happiness; and if among these any Judas can be found, any secret Enemy or false Friend, any wicked or slothful, any negligent or unfaithful Servant, let the strictest Search be made, let the exactest Accounts be taken, and let such be carry'd out without the Camp, as of Old, a Token of their being abhorred of all the Congregation, and there let them be punisht as they deserve.

I contain the Suggestions of those scribblers, who would intituate that I am palliating the Crimes of the Nations Traytors; no, no, may the Justice of GOD find them all out, and the Justice of Men make them a Terror to all Vilains; by when ye come to talk of turning out Parties upon the Pretence of Personal Crimes, it is meet to let you know, I see through it, and to take Care that all the Nation may see through it also.

Rogues may be detected and punished, without bringing in a whole Party of worse Devils then those we cast out — A blessed Proposition this is! Bring in a *High Flying* Administration, because the *Wbigs* have some Rogues among them: This is sinking the *Ship*, indeed to drown the *Rats*; this is just the contrary to our Saviour's Parable, it is just *pulling the Wheat up with the Tares*; this would be not blowing up a House to save a Street, but blowing up the Town to save the Houses from Fire; it would be like Quartering Dragoons upon a Town to save them from Pick-Pockets; and that this is the thing aim'd at is plain, and I think it needs no farther Testimony.

But all this does not prevent the detecting Treachery, the punishing Neglect, or the removing all such as have been deficient, I mean wilfully so, in their Duty, no honest Man is or will be for defending such; may he be expos'd as an Enemy to his Country, and in a Plot against the Nation's Liberties, as a Confederate of France, and a Friend to Tyranny, that sets his Pen to Paper in their Vindication, or to cool the publick Resentments against them.

MISCELLANEA.

IN all my Writings, as well as in this Paper, it has been my Endeavour, and ever shall be I hope, to steer the middle Way between all our Extremes; and while I am applauding the Beauty and Lustre of Temper and Moderation to practice it my self.

If any Man thinks, I was so ignorant as not to know, I should be fallen upon on both sides by the fiery, furious, out of Temper Party-Makers of every Sort, he must think me more ignorant, than I hope I shall give him any Occasion to suppose.

One flies upon his Brethren for Hypocrites, and pushes at the old Game of Persecution, and when I tell him of Moderation, then I am pulling down the Church of England.

Another joyns Battle in the Streets with their Antagonists of the Mob, till they come to Tumult and rabbling the Magistrates; and if I tell them of the Military Power afflicting the Magistrates to suppress Rebellion, oppose Tumults, and keep the Peace, then I am overthrowing the Constitution.

If I meet with treacherous Whigs flying in the Face of Union, and forging Jealousies among their Neighbours, joyning Hands with Jacobites and High-Flyers, and paving their Way for reviving all the Miseries of Blood and War, which these two Nations have so long groan'd under; if I lay before them the Advantages of Union and Peace, the Effects of National Security, Flux of Commerce, and the like, then behold and lo, the Man is an Emissary, one calls him an Envoy of the Presbyterians, another an Envoy of France, & third a Tool of the State.

If a third sets a particular Emphasis upon one Part of the War, which I judge prejudicial to another, and says the Naval War is before the Army War, and I tell him calmly of a Party, who cry out the same thing, and warai in whose Work he is doing— Tho' at the same time I tell him plainly beforehand, that I own, the Sea-Service is vigorously to be push'd according to our utmost Ability, not neglecting the Land-Service as

the Main, yet I am answer'd, by Railing and scoundrel Language, as if I were discouraging the Sea Affairs.

If a Whig in Masquerade affronts King William, and reproaches him with rejecting Advice, being of a stiff Temper, neglecting what, he might have done for us, and rewarding Men for libelling the Nation; if I attempt with Justice and Calmness to do Right to his Glorious Memory, with what villainous Language am I treated, such as I am sure no Man of Sense ought to give to another, and such as I persuade my self they would not give me to my Face, and for less than which, their Predecessor, I believe, was murther'd.

Through all these Extremes I steer unconcerned, I regard none of their Malice or Madness, I pursue according to my best Judgment the Golden Mean of Peace, and practise to my uttermost the Moderation I press others to; their scoundrel Language, their Reproach of being employ'd, I content with the utmost Dis-regard; I thank GOD, all the Work I have been doing is such, that if I had been employ'd, it had been an Honour to the Employer and to the Employ'd, for I have been doing nothing but what has tended to the saving Nations, establishing Liberty, improving Trade, and doing good to All; Tools and Emissaries are employ'd to cheat People into Mischief, not deliver them from it, to enflame and divide, not to reconcile and unite, as I shall farther explain, when I come to the third Head.

Let Envy and Scandal therefore go on, I smile at their Rage, and 'tis a Testimony to the Operation of what I am upon— And therefore I cheerfully leave them to abuse me, only taking Care as far as I can, that they shall not deceive the World with false-Glosses, and misrepresent Things to the publick Disadvantage.

From these clamouring Subjects, I now turn my self to that more material Article of our Commerce, which I began in some past Papers:

Papers; I made a short Essay upon the Affair of our Colonies, the Necessity of our protecting and increasing them, and the Nature of their Dependence one upon another. It is not a confirming only of what I have said on that Head, but an Encouragement to me or any honest Man to find, that the Parliament of Britain has, in their taking into Consideration the State of our Trade, made some Progress for the Encouragement of our Plantations, which I must own are reduc'd, or at least reducing to a Condition so exposed, that a little Time may leave us no Footing in America.

It is enough to me that the Parliament have given their Sanction to the Necessity of this Work, I never doubted but it would one Time or other appear necessary to them.

America is a large Part of the World, and I wish two Things had at the Beginning of this War been effectually consider'd, of both which, having not Time now, I shall speak hereafter.

1. Of what Moment to our Commerce our Plantation Trade is, what Improvements may be made of it, and what Force, in what Manner apply'd, would best protect it.

2. How easily a less Force than has been employ'd in our unhappy Attempts upon Old Spain, being landed in America, would have driven the French Power quite out of New Spain, and turned the Channel of that Trade to England, which has since so much enriched our Enemies.

But I wave this for the present, to examine a little, how far we are engaged at this Time by the Disasters of our Affairs, to put our general Commerce upon some new Foot.

As our Trade has suffer'd several Convulsions by the Accident of the War, so we ought to see, if some of our Misfortunes are not occasion'd, or at least increased by our carrying on our old Measures, which as Circumstances alter, ought also to alter with them.

The Foundation of our Prosperity I take to lie in our Trade, we were raised from nothing by it, and we shall be reduc'd to nothing, when we lose it; we have few Families so great or so ancient, but they have been either begun in Trade, or increased and receiv'd Additions from Trade; and if any are so vain as to contemn that

Original, let them tell us, what their Estates would be worth, if the Encrease of Trade, which always adds to the Value of Land, had not raised their Rents and what they would come to, should a Decay of Trade reduce them to their very poor Original.

This Wealth of Trade consists of 2 Parts, Foreign Export, and Home Consumption; Foreign Export consists of our Manufactures, which is the Labour of our Poor, or our Growth which is the Produce of our Land, of both which in their Order; Home Consumption I take to consist of our Inland Trade; (1.) for our own Goods depending on the Circulation from one Country to another, of which I have formerly discoursed in Opposition to a projected Law of ruining, I should say, employing the Poor; and (2.) for imported Goods of foreign Parts, in discoursing of which it may be necessary to say something of the interfering of foreign Goods with our Home Manufactures, and how far we are bound to take Care to prevent it; of all which I may say something hereafter.

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†† She lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand Court, over against great Turnstile in Holborn.